## REMARKS

In the final office action dated April 5, 2005, claims 16, 57 and 58 were rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Hoffer et al. in view of Jones et al. These three claims are the only claims remaining in the application. In the rejection of the claims, the examiner correctly noted the Hoffer patent discloses a gantry-type vehicle wash system, and the Jones et al. patent discloses a car wash system wherein a spot-free rinse and a clear-coat solution can be applied simultaneously to the vehicle. In a review of column 4, lines 52-62 of the Jones et al. patent where the simultaneous application is noted, however, it should be further appreciated the two solutions are emitted onto the vehicle through a single nozzle and therefore at a single location. It is not known to applicant what result one might have by premixing a clear-coat solution and a spot-free rinse solution that is emitted onto the vehicle through a single nozzle inasmuch as the two solutions have different functions when used independently, but it is certainly a different process than that disclosed by applicant. In other words, a clear-coat solution applies a film to the vehicle, which is sometimes referred to as a wax, while the spot-free rinse solution is adapted to be applied over the clear-coat solution so that the water "beads up" on the surface of the vehicle and does not leave spots. Accordingly, applying the two solutions simultaneously would appear to defeat the purpose of obtaining a clear-coat coating on the vehicle before applying a spot-free rinse.

In applicant's apparatus, the clear-coat coating and the spot-free rinse are applied simultaneously to the vehicle but at different locations. The clear coat is applied at a downstream location from the location where the spot-free rinse is applied whereby the vehicle receives a coating of the clear coat and subsequently a coating of spot-free

rinse as it advances through the wash apparatus even though the two solutions are applied simultaneously.

Use of these two solutions in the prior art has typically been done in two different passes of the gantry with the clear coat being applied in one pass and the spot-free rinse in a subsequent pass. Applicants have discovered, however, that by applying the clear coat to the vehicle from a location at the downstream face of the gantry and simultaneously applying the spot-free rinse to the vehicle from the upstream face of the gantry, the desired results can be obtained in one pass of the gantry. In other words, a clear coat can be applied to the vehicle and subsequently a rinse without leaving water spots by applying the two different solutions at different locations on the vehicle but in one pass so as to save time in the overall car wash process.

To more clearly point out this distinction between applicant's invention and the Jones' et al. system, independent claim 16, from which claims 57, 58, and new claim 59 depend, has been amended to state the clear-coat solution is applied at one location on the vehicle while the spot-free rinse solution is applied simultaneously at a separate location. Claim 59 has been added to be more specific as to the locations of application of the clear-coat and spot-free rinse solutions.

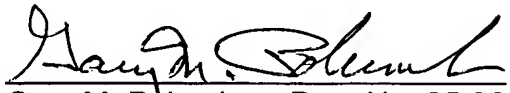
The amended form of independent claim 16 is felt to make the method defined therein patentably distinct from the prior art and accordingly place the application in condition for allowance.

Such action is courteously requested.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $905.00 to cover the RCE filing fee and a three-month extension of time.

Dated this 20th day of September 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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